

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**  
**Environmental Assessment**

*Permitting and Compliance Division*  
*Water Protection Bureau*

**Name of Project:** City of White Sulphur Springs, WWTP

**Type of Project:** Renewal of MPDES Discharge Permit

**Location of Project:** latitude 46° 32' 29.5" N, longitude 110° 54' 48.6" W

**City/Town:** White Sulphur Springs    **County:** Meagher

**Description of Project:**

The City of White Sulphur Springs submitted application for renewal of their MPDES discharge permit for their waste water treatment lagoons. The Department has prepared a statement of basis and a draft MPDES permit for public comment. The draft permit contains limitations on pollutants of concern associated with domestic sewage facilities based on minimum treatment requirements and water quality standards.

**Agency Action and Applicable Regulations:**

The Department proposes to issue MPDES permit MT0020699 in compliance with the Montana Water Quality Act, Title 75, Chapter 5, MCA and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act under 33 U.S.C. 1251 *et. seq.*

**Summary of Issues:**

See statement of basis for permit MT0020699.

**Affected Environment & Impacts of the Proposed Project:**

Y = Impacts may occur (explain under Potential Impacts). *Include frequency, duration (long or short term), magnitude, and context for any significant impacts identified. Reference other permit analyses when appropriate (ex: statement of basis). Address significant impacts related to substantive issues and concerns. Identify reasonable feasible mitigation measures (before and after) where significant impacts cannot be avoided and note any irreversible or irretrievable impacts. Include background information on affected environment if necessary to discussion.*

N = Not present or No Impact will likely occur. *Use negative declarations where appropriate (wetlands, T&E, Cultural Resources).*

<b>IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	
<b>RESOURCE</b>	<b>[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES</b>
1. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are soils present which are fragile, erosive, susceptible to compaction, or unstable? Are there unusual or unstable geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?	[ N] No impacts are anticipated to soils through this action. The facility has been sited at the current location since the 1950s. No improvements are anticipated during this permit cycle.
2. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality?	[ N] With compliance with MPDES permit limits no impacts will occur to surface or groundwater resources in the immediate area.
3. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	[ N] No air quality permits are required for this action. Proper operation and maintenance will minimize any odors associated with the treatment works.
4. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be significantly impacted? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	[ N] No impacts are anticipated in this area.
5. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	[ N] No impacts are anticipated in this area.
6. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Species of special concern?	[ N] No threatened, endangered or species of special concern are known to inhabit the treatment works.
7. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[ N] No impacts are anticipated in this area.
8. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light?	[ N] No impacts are anticipated in this area.
9. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project? Will new or upgraded powerline or other energy source be needed)	[ N] No impacts are anticipated in this area.
10. IMPACTS ON OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?	[ N] No impacts are anticipated in this area.

<b>IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT</b>	
<b>RESOURCE</b>	<b>[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES</b>
11. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	[ N] By issuing the draft permit, public health will be protected.
12. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[ N] No impacts are anticipated in this area.
13. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	[ N] No impacts are anticipated in this area.]
14. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	[ N] No impacts are anticipated in this area.
15. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc.) be needed?	[ N] No impacts are anticipated in this area.
16. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	[ N] No impacts are anticipated in this area.
17. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract?	[ N] No impacts are anticipated in this area.
18. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?	[ N] No impacts are anticipated in this area.
19. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	[ N] No impacts are anticipated in this area.
20. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	[ N] No impacts are anticipated in this area.
21. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:	[ N] No impacts are anticipated in this area.
22(a). PRIVATE PROPERTY IMPACTS: Are we regulating the use of private property under a regulatory statute adopted pursuant to the police power of the state? (Property management, grants of financial assistance, and the exercise of the power of eminent domain are not within this category.) If not, no further analysis is required.	[ N] No impacts are anticipated in this area.

IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT	
RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
22(b). PRIVATE PROPERTY IMPACTS: Is the agency proposing to deny the application or condition the approval in a way that restricts the use of the regulated person's private property? If not, no further analysis is required.	[ N] No impacts are anticipated in this area.
22(c). PRIVATE PROPERTY IMPACTS: If the answer to 21(b) is affirmative, does the agency have legal discretion to impose or not impose the proposed restriction or discretion as to how the restriction will be imposed? If not, no further analysis is required. If so, the agency must determine if there are alternatives that would reduce, minimize or eliminate the restriction on the use of private property, and analyze such alternatives. The agency must disclose the potential costs of identified restrictions.	[ N] No impacts are anticipated in this area.

23. Description of and Impacts of other Alternatives Considered:

A. No Action: By not issuing the draft permit the facility would continue to operate under the administrative extended permit.

B. Approval with modification: By issuing the draft permit the permittee will be required to treat domestic sewage to levels currently required by the Department.

24. Summary of Magnitude and Significance of Potential Impacts: See statement of basis for MPDES permit MT0020699.

25. Cumulative Effects: No other projects are currently under consideration for the receiving water.

26. Preferred Action Alternative and Rationale: The Department proposed to approve and issue the MPDES permit.

**Recommendation for Further Environmental Analysis:**

☐ EIS    ☐ More Detailed EA    ☒ No Further Analysis

Rationale for Recommendation: No unresolved impacts have been identified.

27. Public Involvement: A public notice and 30-day public comment period will be required as stipulated in ARM 17.30.1372.

28. Persons and agencies consulted in the preparation of this analysis: James Lloyd  
DEQ/WPB

**EA Checklist Prepared By:**

James Lloyd  
(Name)

December 2006  
Date

**Approved By:**

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(Print: name & title)

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Signature

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Date